

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process of allowing a patient to have limited input access to their electronic medical record, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing the patient with a machine readable card including a questionnaire concerning the patient's medical history, environment, symptoms, or other pertinent information for answering by the patient;

b) receiving the patient's medical history, environment, symptoms, or other pertinent information from the patient in response to the questionnaire provided on the machine readable card;

c)[(b)] interfacing the machine readable card with a scanning type machine to convert the patient's written answers to a data stream;

d)[(c)] arranging the data stream into a defined data structure simulating the protocol structure from a party having authorization to export data to the patient's patient-specific electronic medical record;

e)[(d)] sending the arranged data stream to an assigned location for importing into a patient's patient-specific electronic medical record, wherein the patient's electronic medical record contains patient-specific, clinical information regarding the patient's health; [(and)]

f) verifying that the arranged data stream is authorized to be imported into the patient's electronic medical record; and

g)[(e)] importing into the patient's electronic medical record the patient's medical history,

environment, symptoms, or other pertinent information provided by the patient on the machine readable card.

2. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of forming a basic patient medical record in a computer through entry of information using a keyboard by a professional staff member.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the machine readable questionnaire includes questions concerning the systems making up the human body with designated locations for patient responses.

5. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the step of interfacing the machine readable card with the scanning type machine is accomplished by a member of the clinical staff.

6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of converting and arranging the data stream to a defined set of data structures simulating the protocol of Health Level Seven (HL7).

7. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of arranging the data stream into a defined data structure according to a protocol of ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials).

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving the formatted data with an interface engine and sending it to a database containing the patient's electronic medical record.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the computer is a standard PC microcomputer and the keyboard is compatible with the computer.

11. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 4, wherein the machine readable card is a paper answer sheet comprised of questions with designated areas for patient responses.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 9, wherein said database is any database that accepts HL7 or ASTM messaging.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 6, wherein the step of arranging the data stream into a defined set of data structures simulating the protocol from a party having authorization to export data into the patient's electronic medical record includes the step of accepting the data stream from the scanning type machine and arranging the data stream into a defined set of data structures simulating the HL7 specification.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of supplementing a medical record with information submitted by a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the patient with a machine readable form including a questionnaire concerning the patient's medical history, environment, symptoms, or other pertinent information for answering by the patient;

receiving from the patient the machine readable form including the questionnaire at least partially completed so as to provide the patient's medical history, environment, symptoms, or other pertinent information ~~a machine-readable printed form containing information about a health status of the patient;~~

~~electronically-scanning the printed form to converting the information~~ on the machine readable form to machine-processable data; ~~[[and]]~~

communicate communicating the data to a computer;

arranging the data into a defined data structure simulating the protocol structure from a party having authorization to export data to the patient's patient-specific electronic medical record;

formatting the machine-processable data with the computer so that the data is in a form that may be communicated to an electronic medical record that is personal to the patient;

communicating the formatted data to an electronic medical record interface; ~~[[and]]~~

verifying that the data is authorized to be added to the patient's electronic medical record; and

adding the information to the patient's ~~personal~~ electronic medical record, wherein the patient's ~~personal~~ electronic medical record contains patient-specific, clinical information regarding the patient's health; and

presenting the information to a physician as part of the patient's personal electronic medical record.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

mailing the form to the patient prior to the appointment; and

presenting the patient's electronic medical record to the physician, including the information from the **printed** form, before the patient visits the doctor to apprise the physician of the patient's health status in the patient's absence.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of supplementing a medical record with information submitted by a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing the patient with a machine readable form including a questionnaire concerning the information to be submitted by the patient, such as the patient's medical history, environment, and symptoms;

receiving from the patient, prior to a visit with a physician, ~~a machine-readable~~ the machine readable printed form filled out by the patient and providing the information submitted by the patient in response to the questionnaire ~~and containing information about a health status of the patient including the patient's medical history, environment, and symptoms;~~

~~electronically scanning the printed form to converting the information on the form to machine-processable data; and to~~

~~communicate~~ communicating the data to a computer;

~~formatting the machine-processable data with the computer so that the data is in the form of~~ arranging the data into a defined data structure simulating a Health Level Seven laboratory record, wherein the laboratory record includes the information from the printed form and information identifying an electronic medical record that is personal to the patient;

communicating the arranged formatted data to an electronic medical record interface;

verifying that the arranged data is authorized to be added to the patient's electronic medical record; and

~~engine to automatically adding the information to the patient's personal electronic medical record, wherein the patient's personal electronic medical record contains patient-specific, clinical information regarding the patient's health; and~~

~~presenting the patient's personal electronic medical record to the physician during the patient's visit with the physician, wherein the electronic medical record includes the information from the printed form.~~

21. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

mailing the form to the patient prior to the appointment; and

presenting the patient's electronic medical record to the physician, including the information from the printed form, prior to the visit to inform the physician of the patient's health status.